

Pair responsible for mill's growth

By EDWIN NEWTON
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No history of the Columbia River would be complete without mention of some of the area's early pioneers.

No two families were more instrumental to the growth of the Camas mill — and thus the town — than the Pittocks and Leadbetters.

The two families were joined in marriage but maybe even more closely joined by the mark they left on society. The Pittocks and Leadbetters were the "royal families" of the Northwest.

Henry L. Pittock, the senior, and Fred W. Leadbetter, his son-in-law, were both the quintessential entrepreneurs of their day. Their enthusiasm for success played a key role in developing the Columbia River into the successful haven for industry it is today.

The newspaperman gets his start

Camas residents might know him as the founder of the local mill. However, Henry Pittock was just as famous for his development of The Oregonian Newspaper in Portland.

Pittock was born in London in March of 1835. His father visited the United States in his business as a book printer and seller in 1825. He returned in 1839 and set up a shop in Pittsburgh, Pa., where Henry was to learn the printing trade.

Henry's imagination was kindled by sto-

ries of settlement in the West. He joined a wagon train out of St. Joseph, Mo., on April 11, 1853, and arrived at Oregon City on Oct. 15. His first job was as a wood splitter, which earned him barely enough money to eat on.

Pittock applied for a newspaper job at the Spectator, a Portland-based newspaper, but was turned down. So he applied at The Oregonian for a job as a typesetter.

The paper's founder, Thomas J. Dryer, gave Pittock a piece of reprint and said "Let's see what you can do with it." Pittock returned the hand-set type practically error free and he was thus hired. Wages consisted of "room and board" — which in reality was a couple of blankets under the Oregonian's front counter.

By 1853, at the age of 18, Pittock worked as an assistant in charge of the print shop. He also got the job of putting the paper's woeful bookkeeping system in order.

Described as "quiet, systematic, prudent, hard-working and tenacious," Pittock later inherited full-responsibility of the paper. Under his tutelage, The Oregonian went from a struggling weekly paper to one of the most well-respected daily newspapers of his day.

As publisher/owner, Pittock soon gained the upper hand over his competition. The use of a telegraph line to relay news of the



HENRY L. PITTOCK

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